

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 29, 2019

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Kaptur and Ranking Member Simpson:

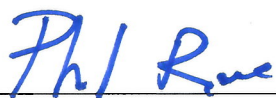
We are writing to express support for continued robust funding in Fiscal Year 2020 (FY 20) for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). Last year, Congress appropriated \$165 million for ARC in the FY 19 Energy and Water, Legislative Branch, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, and we are pleased that the Trump Administration's FY 20 budget requests \$165 million for ARC. We thank you for your past support of the ARC and hope you will continue to support the ARC in FY 20.

The ARC is not a typical federal agency; created in 1965, it is a true commission. The ARC is comprised of thirteen state governors and one federal co-chair working as a partnership between the states, the 420 counties of the Appalachian region and the federal government. The ARC supports vital initiatives in the Appalachian region such as base area development activities, which promote economic development efforts across Appalachia, helping the region achieve socioeconomic parity with the rest of the nation. The ARC also supports the Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER) Initiative, which targets federal resources to help revitalize communities and regions affected by job losses in coal mining, coal-powered plant operations and coal-related supply-chain industries.

In partnership with the states and seventy-three Local Development Districts (LDDs), ARC supported 522 projects in Appalachia totaling \$125.6 million in FY 18. These investments have been matched by more than \$188.7 million from other government, non-profit and private sources and will leverage an additional \$1.5 billion in private investments across Appalachia. These projects are projected to create or retain more than 26,600 jobs; train and educate over 34,000 students and workers; and benefit the more than 25 million residents in the region's 420 counties – one-fifth of which are considered economically distressed. ARC investments have generated state and private investments in many multiples that have created jobs and economic opportunity in some of the poorest areas of the United States.

We believe this is an important partnership with the states that should be maintained and supported with robust funding. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

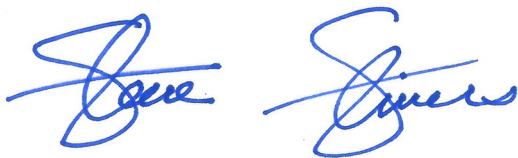
Sincerely,



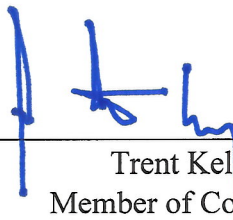
Phil Roe, M.D.
Member of Congress



Conor Lamb
Member of Congress



Steve Stivers
Member of Congress



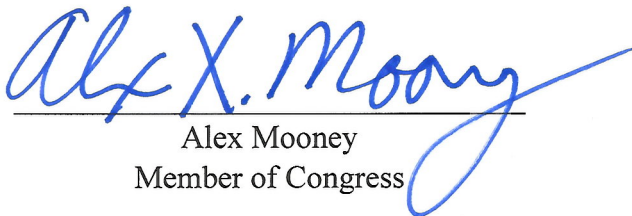
Trent Kelly
Member of Congress



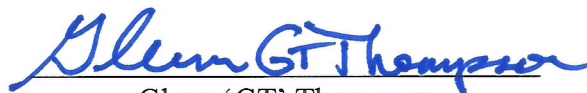
Mike Rogers
Member of Congress



Antonio Delgado
Member of Congress



Alex Mooney
Member of Congress



Glenn 'GT' Thompson
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



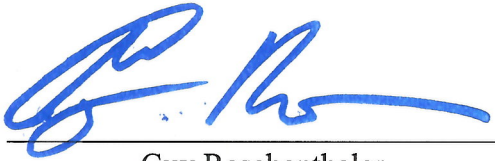
Mike Doyle
Member of Congress



Bennie Thompson
Member of Congress



H. Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress



Guy Reschenthaler
Member of Congress



Anthony Brindisi
Member of Congress



Terri Sewell
Member of Congress



Brad Wenstrup
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Tim Burchett
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